

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An instrument system, comprising:
2
an electronic instrument; and
4
a network interface module, wherein the network interface module and
6 the electronic instrument interchange instrument data via a first connector,
wherein the network interface module and a voice module interchange
8 voice data via a second connector, wherein the voice data is in the form
of an electronic signal, wherein the network interface module and a
10 network interchange combined voice and instrument data via a third
connector, and wherein the network interface module effects transposition
12 between combined voice and instrument data and separated instrument
data and voice data.
2. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein interchange of
2 instrument data between the network interface module and the electronic
instrument comprises the reception of instrument data from the electronic
4 instrument by the network interface module.
3. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein interchange of
2 instrument data between the network interface module and the electronic
instrument comprises the transmission of instrument data from the
4 network interface module to the electronic instrument.
4. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein interchange of voice
2 data between the network interface module and the voice module

- 4 comprises the reception of voice data from the voice module by the
4 network interface module.
5. The instrument system as recited in claim 4, further comprising the voice
2 module, wherein the voice module comprises a transducer, wherein the
transducer transforms the human voice into electronic voice data.
6. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein interchange of voice
2 data between the network interface module and the voice module
comprises the transmission of voice data from the network interface
4 module to the voice module.
7. The instrument system as recited in claim 6, further comprising the voice
2 module, wherein the voice module comprises a transducer, wherein the
transducer transforms electronic voice data into sounds replicating the
4 human voice.
8. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein interchange of
2 combined voice and instrument data between the network interface
module and the network comprises the reception of a data stream
4 comprising combined instrument data and voice-over-IP data from the
network by the network interface module and wherein the network
6 interface module transposes the combined instrument data and voice-
over-IP data into separated instrument data and voice data.
9. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network
2 interface module transposes separated instrument data and voice data into
combined instrument and voice-over-IP data and wherein interchange of
4 combined voice and instrument data between the network interface
module and the network comprises the transmission of a data stream

- 6 comprising the combined instrument and voice-over-IP data from the
network interface module to the network.
- 2 10. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, further comprising the voice
module.
- 2 11. The instrument system as recited in claim 10, wherein the voice module
is physically attached to the electronic instrument.
- 2 12. The instrument system as recited in claim 11, wherein the transducer is
a speaker.
- 2 13. The instrument system as recited in claim 10, wherein the voice module
is a telephone.
- 2 14. The instrument system as recited in claim 10, wherein the voice module
comprises a handset, wherein the handset is used for communication with
an operator.
- 2 15. The instrument system as recited in claim 10, wherein the voice module
comprises a headset, wherein the headset is used for communication with
an operator.
- 2 16. The instrument system as recited in claim 10, wherein the voice module
comprises a speaker, wherein the speaker is used for communication with
an operator.
- 2 17. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network
interface module is physically attached to the electronic instrument.

- 2 18. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is an local area network (LAN).
- 2 19. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is the internet.
- 2 20. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is a Wide-Area-Network.
- 2 21. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein the system enables communication between the electronic instrument and a remote system.
- 2 22. The instrument system as recited in claim 1, wherein the system enables communication between an operator located with the electronic instrument and another individual located remote from the operator's location.
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- 2 23. The instrument system as recited in claim 21, wherein diagnostic instrument data from the electronic instrument is transmitted to a remote data analysis instrument.
- 2 24. The instrument system as recited in claim 21, wherein the third connector provides a wireless connection to the network.